

Docket No.: 00 P 7658 US  
App. No.: 09/586,557

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A dependability system, comprising a hierarchical arrangement of two or more nodes each having a fault analyzer object programmed to respond to status information relating to an associated system of one or more objects, said status information including an object error, said associated system of one or more objects including an active object and an inactive object, based upon a respective set of policies designed to improve object availability, wherein a first fault analyzer object is configured to report object status information to a second fault analyzer object, the first fault analyzer object being configured to register with the second fault analyzer object, said first fault analyzer deactivating said active object when status information indicates an error with said active object and activating said inactive object.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein a fault analyzer object is assigned responsibility for one or more component objects.

5. (Original) The system of claim 4, wherein the component objects correspond to software applications.

6. (Original) The system of claim 4, further comprising a component interface configured to connect the fault analyzer object to the one or more component objects.

Docket No.: 00 P 7658 US  
App. No.: 09/586,557

7. (Currently Amended) A dependability system, comprising a hierarchical arrangement of two or more nodes each having a fault analyzer object programmed to respond to status information relating to an associated system of one or more component objects ~~based upon a respective set of policies designed to improve object availability~~ and a component interface configured to connect the fault analyzer object to the associated system of one or more component objects, said status information including an object error, the one or more component objects including an active object and an inactive object, wherein the fault analyzer object is configured to issue to the component interface object control instructions for changing an the operational state of one or more of the component objects, said active object being deactivated when status information indicates an error with said active object and said inactive object being activated.

8. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein each fault analyzer object is configured to determine the health of the assigned system.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Canceled)

11. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein a fault analyzer object includes a state machine.

12-15. (Canceled)

16. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the nodes are implemented on a single network system.

17. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the nodes are implemented on separate systems of a packet switched network.

Docket No.: 00 P 7658 US  
App. No.: 09/586,557

18. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein each fault analyzer object is implemented in software.

19. (Currently Amended) A telephony system, comprising:  
a packet switched network;  
a gatekeeper coupled to the packet switched network;  
a server coupled to the packet switched network and configured to process telephone calls over the packet switched network; and  
a dependability system comprising a hierarchical arrangement of two or more nodes each having a fault analyzer object programmed to respond to received status information relating to an assigned system of one or more objects of the telephony system, said status information including an object error, said assigned system of one or more objects including an active object and an inactive object, wherein a first fault analyzer object is configured to report object status information to a second fault analyzer object, the first fault analyzer object being configured to register with the second fault analyzer object, said first fault analyzer deactivating said active object when status information indicates an error with said active object and activating said inactive object based upon a set of policies designed to improve object availability.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Canceled)

22. (Canceled)